

Amendment to the Claims

1-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously Presented) Horizontal continuous casting equipment for horizontal casting of metal, said equipment comprising an insulated reservoir for containing liquid metal, and a mold removably connected to said reservoir and defining an interior cavity, said mold comprising:

a mold housing;

permeable wall material provided along an interior wall of said mold housing, wherein thermal transfer through said permeable wall material provides primary cooling to the metal being cast;

at least one annular slit arranged along a circumference of the cavity for directly supplying coolant into the cavity, thereby providing secondary cooling to the metal being cast;

wherein oil and/or gas can be supplied through said permeable wall material, and annuli are formed between said permeable wall material and said mold housing to distribute the oil and/or gas to the permeable wall material, and

wherein each of said annuli is divided into a plurality of sectors by restriction members, and each of the sectors is supplied with oil and/or gas via separate supply channels, thereby permitting differentiation of the oil and/or gas around the circumference of the mold.

12. (Previously Presented) The equipment as claimed in claim 11, wherein said permeable wall material comprises two rings which are separated by means of a gasket.

13. (Previously Presented) The equipment as claimed in claim 11, wherein said plurality of sectors comprises an upper sector and a lower sector.

14. (Previously Presented) The equipment as claimed in claim 11, wherein said supply channels comprise at least one gas supply channel and at least one oil supply channel, and said gas supply channel communicates with said respective sector at a location that is upstream relative to said oil supply channel.

15. (Previously Presented) The equipment as claimed in claim 11, wherein a gas evacuation passage is provided in an upper part of said mold in order to permit evacuation of excess gas from the mold cavity.

16. (Previously Presented) The equipment as claimed in claim 11, wherein said permeable wall material comprises two rings and a sealing structure interposed between said two rings.

17. (Previously Presented) Horizontal continuous casting equipment for casting of aluminum, said equipment comprising an insulated reservoir for containing liquid metal, and a mold defining an interior cavity and being removably connected to said reservoir, said mold comprising:

a mold housing;

permeable wall material provided along an interior wall of said mold housing, wherein an outer circumferential surface of said permeable wall material defines an annular recess such that an annulus is formed by the interior wall of said mold housing and the outer circumferential surface of said permeable wall material;

a plurality of nozzles arranged along a circumference of the cavity for directly supplying coolant therethrough;

a plurality of plugs provided in said annulus so as to form a plurality of sectors; and

a plurality of supply channels provided in said mold housing, wherein at least one separate supply channel communicates with each of said sectors so that gas and/or oil can be separately supplied to each of said sectors and supplied through said permeable material into the interior mold cavity so that the supply of oil and/or gas can be varied around the circumference of the mold cavity.

18. (Previously Presented) The equipment as claimed in claim 17, wherein said permeable wall material comprises two rings which are separated by means of a gasket.

19. (Previously Presented) The equipment as claimed in claim 17, wherein said plurality of sectors comprises an upper sector and a lower sector.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Previously Presented) The equipment as claimed in claim 17, wherein a gas evacuation passage is provided in an upper part of said mold in order to permit evacuation of excess gas from the mold cavity.

22. (Previously Presented) The equipment as claimed in claim 17, wherein said permeable wall material comprises two rings and a sealing structure interposed between said two rings.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Previously Presented) The equipment as claimed in claim 11, wherein said mold housing is formed of steel.

26. (Previously Presented) The equipment as claimed in claim 17, wherein said mold housing is formed of steel.

27. (Previously Presented) The equipment as claimed in claim 11, wherein said mold housing comprises first and second parts, and said first part of said mold housing surrounds said permeable wall material, and a thermally insulating annular plate is disposed against said first part of said mold housing to reduce thermal transfer to the mold cavity.

28. (Previously Presented) The equipment as claimed in claim 17, wherein said mold housing comprises first and second parts, and said first part of said mold housing surrounds said permeable wall material, and a thermally insulating annular plate is disposed against said first part of said mold housing to reduce thermal transfer to the mold cavity.

29. (Previously Presented) The equipment as claimed in claim 11, wherein the gas and oil, which is supplied to said sectors and around the circumference of the mold cavity, lubricate the mold.

30. (Previously Presented) The equipment as claimed in claim 17, wherein the gas and oil, supplied to the interior mold cavity, are provided to lubricate the mold.